

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 632

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor The McKameys, a Southern gospel singing group.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor and salute those artists who, through their extraordinary talents, have brought and continue to bring great renown to the State of Tennessee and its musical traditions; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a rich history of outstanding Southern Gospel singers who have shared their tremendous talents to praise and glorify God and spread the Gospel's message through song; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable singing group is The McKameys, who have been singing and recording Gospel music since 1954; and

WHEREAS, the original members of The McKameys were Dora, Peg, and Carol McKamey, the daughters of a minister from Clinton, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Ruben Bean joined The McKameys and played guitar for the trio; and

WHEREAS, two years later, Ruben Bean and Peg McKamey were joined in holy matrimony, and their marriage was blessed with two girls, Connie and Sheryl; and

WHEREAS, after Peg's sisters retired from The McKameys in 1971, Connie and Sheryl took their places to continue the group's musical ministry; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1980s, Sheryl retired from the gospel singing group after marrying her husband, and Carol returned to the group; The McKameys now consist of Peg, Connie, Ruben, and Carol, along with Roger Fortner, who also plays guitar for the group; and

WHEREAS, the McKameys have recorded more Number 1 hits than any other group in Southern Gospel Music history, serving as a testament to their talent and creative abilities; and

WHEREAS, the McKameys's long list of hits includes "Who Put the Tears," "Getting Used to the Dark," "God on the Mountain," "God Will Make This Trial a Blessing," "A Borrowed Tomb," "Do You Know How It Feels," "Arise," "Right on Time," "Roll That Burden on Me," "I've Won," "He Calms Me," "The Other Side," "Surely Goodness and Mercies of the Lord," "The Good News," and "I am Home"; "God on the Mountain" (1989) and "Arise" (1994) were named Song of the Year by the Singing News Fan Awards; and

WHEREAS, Peg McKamey Bean has been named Favorite Female Vocalist by the Singing News Fan Awards on several different occasions, and Ruben Bean received the Marvin Norcross Award from the Singing News Fan Awards; Roger Fortner was also named Favorite Musician by the Singing News Fan Awards; and

WHEREAS, The McKameys have produced forty-one albums, including *He Didn't Let Us Down* (1981), *By Faith* (1982), *Keepsake* (1983), *Tennessee Live* (1984), *Fruitful* (1985), *Unique* (1986), *More Than Music* (1987), *Covered by Love* (1988), *Gone to Meetin'* (1988), *Sing Praises* (1989), *Purpose* (1990), *Just Thinking* (1991), *With Feeling* (1992), *With His Power* (1993), *It's Real* (1994), *Sheltered* (1995), *Still Have a Song* (1996), *Remembrance* (1997), *Always* (1998), *Waiting* (1999), *I've Won* (2001), *Trophy of Grace* (2002), *An Acoustic Journey* (2003), *Fresh Manna* (2004), and *The Old Path* (2005); and

WHEREAS, The McKameys have also produced ten music videos, including "Gone to Meetin'" (1988), "Sing Praises" (1989), "McKameys on Tour" (1991), "With Feeling" (1992), "With His Power" (1994), "Encourage" (1996), "Genuine" (1999), "Who We Are" (2000), "McKameys Hometown Live" (2001), and "Renfro Valley Live" (2003); "McKameys Hometown Live" won Video of the Year at the 2003 Singing News Fan Awards; and

WHEREAS, traveling across the United States and playing about 150 dates a year, The McKameys always strive to serve their fellow citizens, faithfully proclaiming God's love and encouraging other Christians with uplifting music; and

WHEREAS, through their enthusiasm, sincerity, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, the past and present members of The McKameys have effectively and fervently communicated the good news of the Gospel to the multitudes for over fifty years; and

WHEREAS, the members of The McKameys exemplify the spirit and allegiance to family, community, and God that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause to recognize the bountiful talents and good works of these exceptional performers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor the past and present members of The McKameys and their tremendous success as Gospel singers, commend their service to citizens of the State of Tennessee, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.